

City of Hanford

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Press Release

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HANFORD VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVE MEASURE H

Measure H funding will stay in Hanford and improve the City's overall quality of life

HANFORD, CA – For the first time in the City of Hanford's history, voters have approved a district tax on the sale or use of merchandise to fund essential City services, creating a critically important new revenue stream to hire additional police officers and firefighters, build a new public safety building, maintain City parks and streets, address the complex issue of homelessness and much more.

Measure H, the City of Hanford's 1% general purpose sales tax, was approved by more than 60% of Hanford voters—far surpassing the necessary majority (50% + 1) required by state law. The tax will be in addition to the existing 7.25% sales tax levied under state law, of which the City only receives an undivided 0.95%. Measure H is expected to generate more than \$19 million annually.

“The passage of Measure H is a testament to the community’s faith and trust in City staff and the hard work they do every day,” said City Manager Mario Cifuentez. “For nearly a year, we have educated the public about the City’s greatest needs, from hiring more police officers and firefighters to maintaining our roads and parks. The public clearly recognized those needs and is now giving us the tools and resources to better provide essential services and enhance their overall quality of life. We look forward to working with City Council to develop an Oversight Committee to ensure all Measure H funding is spent according to the expenditure plan and with community participation at the forefront.”

Earlier this year, the Revenue Measure Committee (RMC), an advisory body made up of Hanford residents from diverse backgrounds, studied both the needs and functions of departments and programs funded through the City’s General Fund, including Police, Fire, Streets, Parks and Community Services and Code Enforcement. In April, the group unanimously approved a draft expenditure plan, and later, a majority voted to recommend the need for a revenue measure to City Council. In July, City Council members voted unanimously to place the sales tax measure on the November ballot.

At Tuesday night’s City Council meeting, Council members introduced Ordinance No. 2024-09, which allows the City to implement Measure H. The ordinance will be submitted to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration following a second reading on

December 3. On December 17, Council Members will discuss a resolution for the formation of the Measure H Oversight Board, one of several components in the City's Accountability Measures Ordinance. Expenditure plans, independent annual audits and periodic reporting are also required.

"We're just extremely humbled as a City and as a Council that the voters are entrusting us with this 1% sales tax and we're going to make them proud," said Mayor Travis Paden. "We have an expenditure plan. We plan to follow that expenditure plan—for this Council and future Councils—for the next 10 years and beyond. It's a great day for the City of Hanford."

"I just want to assure the residents of Hanford, we as a Council and staff are committed to using the additional revenue to improve the quality of life in our community," Vice Mayor Mark Kairis added. "I'd like to thank all the Hanford residents and my colleagues for their support and trust throughout this process."

At the meeting, City Council formally recognized Hanford residents for exercising their rights as voters on election day. Special recognition was given to Victor Chavarin Jr. for his leadership of the Yes on Measure H Committee (not affiliated with the City of Hanford's information and education efforts).

It is expected that the City will begin receiving Measure H funds in July of 2025. To learn more about Measure H, visit www.hanfordca.gov/revenuemmeasure.

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